

Message Text

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44

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 COME-00 INT-08 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 DLOS-06 L-03 IO-14 CG-00 DRC-01 /090 W

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R 141315Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7596

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUACKHOTT

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 2066

PASS: COMMERCE, NMFS, FOREIGN FISHERIES

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIS, IV, MR, SG

SUBJ: JOINT IVORIAN/MAURITANIAN-SENEGALESE FISHING VENTURES

1. THERE WAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED IN ABIDJAN THE FORMATION OF A NEW FISHING COMPANY, THE STE. IVOIRIENNE DE PECHE ET DE CONGELATION EN MER, WHO PLAN TO CATCH AND PROCESS FISH AT SEA. THE TWO IVORIAN DIRECTORS ON THE BOARD ARE GERMAIN COFFI GADEAU, AN IVORIAN MINISTER OF STATE, AND ANTOINE KONAN KANGA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE IVORIAN ELECTRIC UTILITY. THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH S XIP OF NOUADHIBOU, MAURITANIA, GEORGES BLOT AND REGINALD OSTROWSKY, THE LATTER BEING THE MANAGER OF SOMIP.

2. THIS IS THE FIRST POSITIVE INDICATION THAT IVORY COAST IS MAKING PROGRESS IN CIRCUMVENTING THE RESTRICTIONS OF EXTENDED TERRITORIAL SEA CLAIMS ALONG WEST AFRICA BY GAINING ACCESS TO THE RICH WATERS OFF MAURTANIA. IVORIAN FISH PRODUCTION HAS BEEN DECLINING AND THE OLDER VESSELS IN ITS FLEET ARE BEING RETIRED AND NOT BEING REPLACED. THIS NEW VENTURES WILL PROBABLY LEASE SEVERAL FREEZER-TRAWLERS INITIALLY, THEN IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT PURCHASE THEIR OWN.

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3. SENEGAL IS WILLING TO PERMIT FIVE SMALL IVORIAN ICE BOATS TO

WORK IN THEIR WATERS PROVIDED THE FISH CAUGHT ARE PROCESSED
THROUGH A SHORE PROCESSING PLANT IN SENEGAL BEFORE GOING TO
IVORY COAST. THE ADDITIONAL COSTS WOULD MAKE THESE FISH COST
MORE THAN CURRENT IMPORTS. ANOTHER NEGOTIATING SESSION BETWEEN
IVORIAN AND SENEGALESE OFFICIALS IS SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF
MARCH.
SMITH

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